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with 84 species, followed by *Carex*, *Celmisia* (Compositae), *Coprosma* (Rubiaceae), *Ranunculus*, *Olearia* (Compositae), etc. Numerous new species are described and a new genus (*Townsonia*) of Orchidaceae is established. The most remarkable fact is that of the 1571 species 1143 are endemic, nearly three-fourths of the entire flora. Of the 428 species found elsewhere, 366 extend to Australia, and 108 to South America. This almost complete "strangeness" of the flora to botanists who are familiar with the north temperate floras and who have even visited the tropics, gives it a fascination suggestive of just as strange results if such material could be made available in their laboratories.—J. M. C.

### MINOR NOTICES.

**Development of fern leaves.**—MARGARET SLOSSON has brought together in an elaborate book a remarkable series of observations upon the development of fern leaves.<sup>7</sup> She has selected nineteen representative species from north-eastern United States, and illustrated them by forty-six handsome plates reproduced from photographs. A preliminary chapter contains a general description of the development of form and venation, often showing remarkable changes in passing from the juvenile to the mature form. In the subsequent chapters each species is first described in its mature form, and then follows a very detailed description of the transition forms from the juvenile stage. The possible range of leaf variation is also considered. The book contains a mass of suggestive observations, which should serve as a check to any characterization of species from insufficient material, and as a demonstration that the numerous "form species" of fossil "ferns" are more than doubtful. The book is more of a contribution than its elaborate form would suggest.—J. M. C.

**Portraits of botanists.**—DÖRFLER, editor of *Botaniker-Adressbuch*, has issued the first two parts of a proposed series of portraits of botanists. Each part contains ten portraits, 9×12.5<sup>cm</sup>, which are phototype reproductions upon fine art cards, each card also bearing the signature of the botanist in facsimile. The cards are loose, being ready to frame and worthy of it. It is announced that 100 portraits, with title page and index, will form a volume. A grape of text accompanies each portrait, giving the most important biographical data and bibliography. Each part costs 5 marks to subscribers; single portraits can be obtained for 1 mark; and 10 selected portraits for 8 marks. The first part contains portraits of KERNER, WIESNER, WARMING, ENGLER, DEVRIES, GUIGNARD, SCHRÖTER, MATTIROLO, WILLE, and WETTSTEIN; the second part, FRIES, (Elias and Theodor), PFEFFER, BORODIN, HACKEL, SCOTT, GOEBEL, ERRERA, CHODAT, and IKENO. The address is J. DÖRFLER, Barichgasse 36, Wien, III.—J. M. C.

<sup>7</sup> SLOSSON, MARGARET, *How ferns grow*. 8vo. viii+156. New York: Henry Holt & Company. 1906.